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ORIGINAL

September 23, 2013

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION:

I am writing this letter of protest as I cannot believe you gave Far West Water, Yuma AZ, a 162% increase in their sewer rates. I could see a 50% increase, but this is unbelievable.

Far West and all the Schechert enterprises were in good condition until the present management took over. Now the mini-mart can't afford to buy gasoline, the grocery store (which used to be a good store) has shrunk to a convenience store, the hardware store can't afford to buy stock - as one employee put it when asked why the shelves are out of so much stock, "We can't order...it's embarrassing".

The reason for all of this is mismanagement. Why not let the owners sell their lavish multi-million dollar houses? People are angry and have stopped patronizing these establishments.

My wife and I are having to sell our home, which we built in 2001, as our retirement money dissipated, as with so many others. We used to work at fairs in the summer and the marketplace in the winter until it got to the point we weren't breaking even. Yuma has a 34% unemployment rate, so it is difficult for an 80-year-old man and 78-year-old woman to find employment. Our retirement income is the same as when we retired in 1995. Look at prices now as compared to then. This extra \$35.17 doesn't seem like much to some, but to us it's a great deal. Even with all these circumstances, we are really not "whiners", as we are firm believers in the fact that you make your own way and do what you have to do, and if you have made poor decisions, fix them yourselves...do not expect others to do it for you.

If you would like to buy a nice home in the Foothills, ours will be on the market about November 15.

Jerry Stapleton

Yuma AZ 85367

Arizona Corporation Commission
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CORP COMMISSION
DOCKET CONTROL

Trisha A. Morgan

From: Ute [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 22, 2013 2:54 PM
To: Pierce-Web; Burns-Web; Stump-Web; BitterSmith-Web; RBurns-Web
Subject: Far West Rates

Commissioners/ Chairman,

First we thank Commissioner Burns from the bottom of our hearts for her vote against this outrageous increase.

The rest of you proved with your vote to permit Far West Water to raise our sewer rate more than 100% that even you don't listen to "We the People".

As many of us told you at the hearing here in Yuma that we don't mind a small raise like 30 or 40 %, but we see again that the complaints of the little people fell on deaf ears. Don't know who's in the pocket of these women , but now they can go on with their rich lifestyle on our backs.

Most of us are retired and live on fixed incomes, but you heard all that at the hearings.

In these times with gas prices through the roof, the same goes for Grocery, school supply etc. makes it hard just to live a simple life.

Just remember the next election is coming. We worked hard for all of you so you could get elected and that 160% increase is our "Grand Prize"

Thank you again Commissioner Burns for listening.

**Sincerely
Ute & Bill Edge
Far West Water User
Foothills ,Yuma**

In God We Trust